

School Prospectus

'...Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'

Matthew 13 1-23





Headteacher's Welcome Message

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome,

Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School is a wonderful place to teach and learn.

Our whole school vision is 'Grow, Achieve, Bloom, Repeat', inspired by the Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23). This vision drives us to provide an exciting and varied curriculum for all our children, ensuring that school is a place where they grow, achieve, and bloom, from our Penguin Pre-School to Year 6. Our 'Root' Christian values form the basis of our ethos, emphasising trust, friendship, and mutual respect.

Our children are a credit to our school, often receiving positive comments about their excellent behaviour and exemplary manners from visitors and during off-site visits.

We believe children gain the most from their education when school and families work in partnership. We warmly invite parents, grandparents, and other family members to visit the school regularly.

We collaborate closely with several local schools as part of 'The Collaborative Partnership Charitable Trust'. This provides our children with opportunities to meet peers from other schools and participate in various sporting events, both competitive and non-competitive.

The children, staff, governors, and parents are very proud of our school and welcome visitors. If you have any questions or would like to tour the school, please contact the office, and they will be happy to assist you.

Mrs. Helen Noon



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Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School

Whitwick, a former coal-mining village in North West Leicestershire, is home to our thriving school. Built in 1954 and extended in 1991, we now educate 380 pupils across 14 classrooms, alongside our well-established Pre-School.



We offer bright, well-equipped classrooms and excellent facilities, including a large hall, library, studio, and kitchen. Our spacious grounds include a forest area, a ball court, and a garden – home to our school chickens. We also have several dedicated learning and wellbeing spaces: 'The Nest' for pastoral support, 'The Den,' and 'The Portal' for small-group work. Outdoors, children enjoy our 'Pavilion' and 'Bandstand' for learning and play.

We run our own wraparound care – the Rockhopper Club – offering breakfast and after-school provision every day during term time.



Our strong links with the local church are central to school life. We promote a clear Christian ethos through our weekly collective worship and regular visits to and from the church and vicar.

Admissions

If you would like your child to join our school, all applications must be made through the Local Authority website. For mid-year transfers, please contact us directly to check current availability.

All admissions are managed in line with our agreed Admissions Policy, and places cannot be guaranteed. For children starting in our Foundation Stage, the Local Authority will publish application deadlines in advance each year.



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Vision, Aims and Values

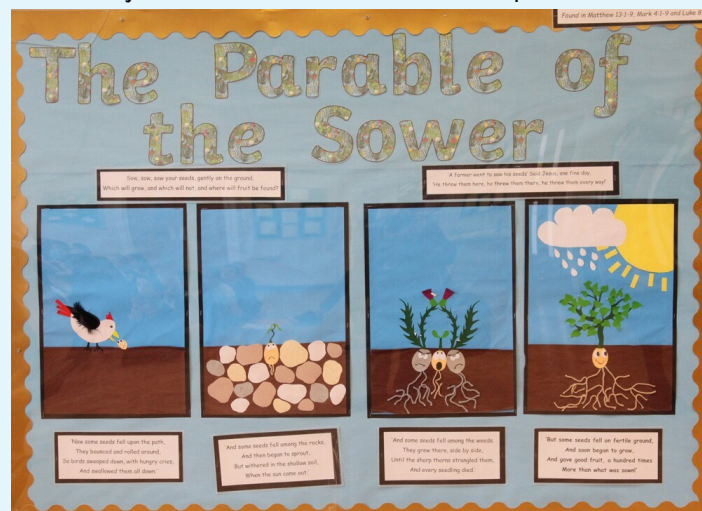


Our Vision and Values

'Grow, Achieve, Bloom, Repeat...'

'...Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.' Matthew 13 1-23

Our whole school vision is '**Grow, Achieve, Bloom, Repeat...**' which is based on the Parable of the Sower from Matthew 13 1-23. Through our provision and living our 'Root' Christian Values of Tolerance, Respect, Honesty, Love, Kindness and Trust, we represent the good soil, water, sun and space that our seeds (our children) need to **grow, achieve, bloom**, not just once but as often as possible.



Our Aims

To support the school's vision, we have four aims that enable us to make our vision a reality.

Grow: to provide a school community built on the foundations of our 'Christian Values', within which the children feel safe, welcome, included, challenged and nurtured and where they can grow personally, academically, socially and spiritually.

Achieve: to provide a relevant, creative and exciting curriculum where all learners achieve their full potential within our Christian community and are prepared for their future.

Bloom: to ensure that success and difference is celebrated.

Repeat: to ensure that children become lifelong learners and responsible citizens, with the understanding that effort leads to improvement and ultimately the feeling of success.

'...Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times



Collective Worship & 'Root' Christian Values



Christian Distinctiveness

Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School is a proud Church of England school.

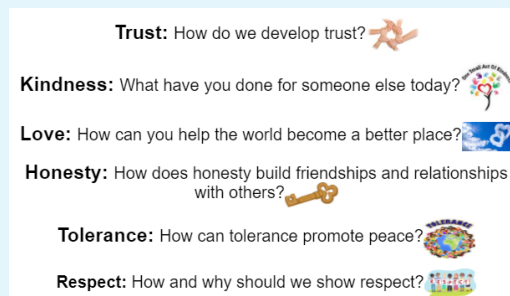
Church of England schools are designed to be inclusive and look to equally serve those who are of Christian faith, those of other faiths and those with no faith.

The school is linked with St John the Baptist Church, Whitwick.

Our whole school vision (**Grow, Achieve, Bloom, Repeat ...**) is based on the **Parable of the Sower** from **Matthew 13 1-23**.

Through collaboration with the school community, we have selected six Christian Values (our 'Root Values') that underpin all of our work with the children: **Trust, Kindness, Love, Honesty, Tolerance** and **Respect**.

'Christian values are intrinsic to the lives of the whole school family and one way in which the vision is worked out, enabling pupils to 'grow and bloom.' As a result, staff and pupils have developed excellent relationships, based on a shared approach, which enables all to thrive.' (SIAMS Report May 2022)



Emotional Support for Children and Families



Children's well-being is at the heart of what we do. Our dedicated Pastoral Manager, who is also a trained Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA), is here to support children through life's ups and downs – whether that's family changes, loss, friendship worries or managing big emotions. Support is flexible and may include time outdoors, creative strategies or simply a safe space to talk. We also have a qualified counsellor in school each week, offering an extra layer of care when it's needed most.

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Ofsted - 2023



Our most recent Ofsted inspection was a short inspection in June 2023, confirming that **“this school continues to be Good.”** This followed a full inspection in January 2014, where we were also graded Good.

‘Teachers have high expectations of what all pupils can achieve.’



‘*Pupils are well prepared for their next steps in education and their lives in modern Britain.’

‘Leaders have developed an ambitious and interesting curriculum.’



‘*Pupils say that they feel safe in school.’

‘*Phonics and early reading are taught well.’

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Our Curriculum

At Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School, we offer a broad and ambitious curriculum that follows the National Curriculum. Pupils are taught English, Maths, Science, Computing, RE, History, Geography, Music, PE, Art, Design & Technology, PSHE and French.

Our woodland area brings learning to life through outdoor experiences, while our modern, computerised library – led by a dedicated librarian – helps foster a love of reading. We also offer additional music lessons delivered by private tutors.

We aim to develop curious, active learners and involve parents closely in their child's journey. Whole-school events such as Enterprise Week, Aspirations Week and Science Week bring learning to life and inspire pupils across the curriculum.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Aligned with our vision of "Grow, Achieve, Bloom, Repeat," we offer a rich and varied programme of extra-curricular activities designed to build skills, foster belonging, spark new interests and ensure enjoyment.

Clubs are regularly updated based on pupil interests, with many led by staff or volunteers. Some are run by external providers and may carry a small fee.



These opportunities help every child thrive beyond the classroom through engaging and inclusive experiences.

Homework



Homework at our school is purposeful and designed to support and extend learning. Each year group sets age-appropriate tasks, with all children expected to read at home at least three times a week and practise their times tables regularly – both essential skills for success.

To help families stay informed and involved, we also send home a copy of the objectives being covered in class, so learning can be supported at home in meaningful ways.

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School Sport & PE



We are passionate about health, sport and physical activity. Our approach to PE and school sport is shaped by the School Games values of self-belief, determination, passion, teamwork, respect and honesty.

Pupils regularly take part in a wide range of competitions and festivals through the North West Leicestershire Sports Partnership and the Coalville Collaborative Group.



In recognition of our strong participation and inclusive ethos, we were proud to be named "Primary School of the Year" at the North West Leicestershire Local Alliance Awards in both 2022 and 2023.

Residential Visits

Our school has a proud tradition of residential visits dating back to the late 1960s. These experiences are a key part of our wider curriculum, helping pupils grow in confidence, independence and teamwork.

For many children, it's their first time staying away from home – and they return with a real sense of achievement.



Year 2 - A two-night stay at Beaumanor Hall, just five miles away, helps children experience time away from home in a safe, supportive environment.



Year 4 - A three-day adventure at Whitemoor Lakes, where children take part in activities such as climbing and raft-building, developing resilience and teamwork.

Year 6 - A full week at Min-y-Don, a Christian-run centre in Wales. Pupils face exciting challenges, reflect on teamwork and cooperation, and return ready for the next stage in their education.



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Rewards and Behaviour



School Vision & Ethos for Behaviour



We believe children grow best when they feel safe, included, challenged and nurtured. Our approach to behaviour, rooted in our Christian ethos, creates a culture where kindness, responsibility and respect are expected every day.

We hold high expectations for conduct and encourage all pupils to take responsibility for their actions, while supporting others to do the same. Our behaviour policy focuses on teaching self-discipline – not just compliance.

As a Church of England school, forgiveness and reconciliation are at the heart of how we respond when things go wrong, helping children learn, reflect and grow.

Behaviour Procedures

The vast majority of our children come to school each day ready to learn and do the right thing. We recognise and reward positive behaviour and hard work, reinforcing the values we want to see.

We also believe every day is a fresh start. Our behaviour policy is rooted in forgiveness and built around creating a calm, supportive and nurturing environment where all children can thrive.

Positive Behaviour

We place a strong emphasis on encouragement and praise. Staff use both whole-school and class-based rewards, including our 'House Points' system, to recognise positive behaviour and effort.

Every child starts each day with the opportunity to earn a House Point by meeting the expectations set by their class teacher. Pupils can also be sent to the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher or other staff members to celebrate their achievements.

When a child earns 30 House Points, they receive a 'Rocket' certificate in our Friday Celebration Collective Worship – a moment of pride and recognition.

Inappropriate Behaviour

Minor inappropriate behaviour is addressed through clear warnings and calm conversations. In some cases, this may result in the loss of a House Point. More serious incidents are dealt with in line with our Behaviour Policy.

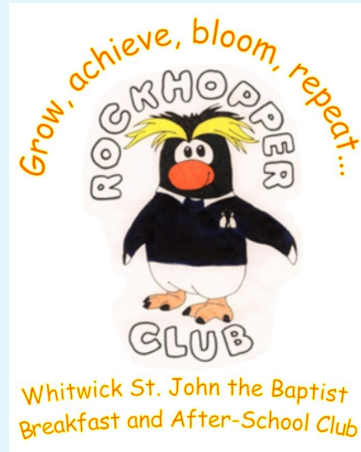
These are overseen by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, who will debrief the child and support them to reflect, repair and improve.



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Wrap Around Care Rockhopper Club (Breakfast and After-School Club)



Rockhopper Club is our excellent wrap-around care, available before and after school. Fully managed and staffed by our experienced school team, children are cared for by familiar adults who know them well.



The club is proudly child-led, with pupils choosing their own activities each day. With access to our extensive indoor and outdoor spaces – including the ball court, adventure play area, nature zone, main hall, library and kitchen – children enjoy a rich mix of fun, creativity and exploration.

Places are exclusively available to pupils at Whitwick St John the Baptist CE Primary School.

Sessions

Breakfast: 7.30am - 8.30am - including breakfast

Short after school session: After school until 4.30pm—
including a snack and drink

Full after school session: After school until 5.45pm—including a snack, drink & light meal

Contact Details

For all enquires regarding Rockhopper, please contact Rockhopper via Phone or E-Mail.

Telephone

Contact Rockhopper directly on 07704 144227

E-mail

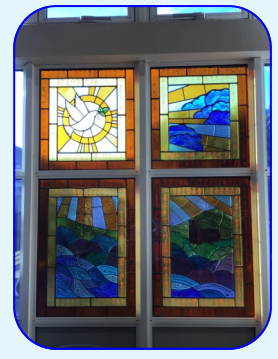
Rockhopper@whitwickce.leics.sch.uk or Weduc (Miss Steadman)

Facebook

Whitwick St John the Baptist Primary School - Breakfast/After-School Club



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Uniform

We believe that our uniform policy is practical, sensible and cost effective. The only logoed item we insist on is a jumper or cardigan. These can be purchased from the 'Your School Uniform' website. Therefore, if you wish, the rest of the items can be bought from a wide range of suppliers.

The general uniform policy is:

- Blue Whitwick logo crew neck sweat shirt / cardigan
- White or pale blue polo t-shirt, shirt or blouse(logo optional)
- Grey or black school trousers /skirt/pinafore dress/ tailored shorts
- Black flat sensible school shoes with no obvious coloured logos or laces
- Plain black trainers are acceptable – a white sole is allowed



ParentPay & Charging Policy -



As a school, we aim to be cashless. For all meals & trips we expect parents to book and pay through the ParentPay website. This is a quick and easy process.

Many of the topics and work that the children study are enhanced by visits to museums and other places of educational interest. Additionally we may organise performances in school with theatre or drama groups which may involve the children. These may involve some additional cost and we ask parents to make contributions. Often without these contributions the school would not be able to provide these opportunities.

Schools Meals

All parents have the option of ordering a hot dinner or sending their child with a packed lunch. School meals are cooked on the premises. Menus are published on Weduc (our parent communication app). We ask that meals are paid for in advance at the start of the week via ParentPay.

We have a packed lunch policy which was prepared alongside local schools following work with a dietician. Water is available in all classes and we ask that children bring a water bottle.

Children may bring a mid-morning snack; however, we ask you to send 100% fruit based products apart from Friday when a small treat is allowed. Children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 are entitled to a free school meal. They also receive a piece of fruit daily. We offer toast at break time for a nominal charge (Years 1-6).



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Keeping Safe

All staff and visitors, including parents, must sign in at Reception and wear a visible badge. Any adult in school without one will be politely challenged and directed to Reception. During outdoor play, children are closely supervised, and any unknown individuals seen on site are reported immediately to the Headteacher or Premises Officer.



We actively teach children how to stay safe online and invite parents to attend information sessions to help support this at home. We also raise awareness of anti-bullying and take all concerns seriously, ensuring any reports are fully investigated.

All staff receive annual child protection training, and we have six trained Designated Safeguarding Leaders covering the main school, Pre-School and Rockhopper Club. Safer recruitment procedures are followed for all appointments.

All support staff are trained in basic first aid and adhere to our Health and Safety policy. The school is strictly non-smoking, including the grounds, and we ask for parental cooperation with this.



We are a nut and egg free school and ask parents to avoid sending products containing nuts and eggs. While we welcome assistance dogs, we ask that all other dogs are kept off school premises and away from the gates during drop-off and pick-up.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities & Higher Attaining Pupils

We are committed to identifying and supporting additional needs as early as possible. Our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo) works closely with staff, families and external professionals to ensure the right support is in place.

Support may include in-class strategies, small group interventions referrals to external services such as the school nursing team, speech and language therapists or community paediatricians.

All teachers plan carefully to meet the needs of every child. Learning is differentiated to ensure all pupils – including those with additional needs and our higher-attaining children – are



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Communication



Communication between home and school is vital for how we operate as a school.

Weduc



Our main form of communication is through a communication website/app called **ReachMoreParents** . Reachmoreparents.com

Newsletters

Half Termly newsletters keep you up-to-date with important information and are published on our website and ReachMoreParents.

Email/phone

Our email address is: whitwick@whitwickce.leics.sch.uk

If your child is ill or we need to contact you in the event of an accident or other urgent matter, we will telephone you. It is important for you to phone or inform us via Weduc before the start of the day if your child is unable to attend school for any reason.

Parents' Evenings/Annual Reports

Parents' Evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring Terms. An Annual Report of your child's progress is also sent to you at the end of the Summer Term.

Social Media

We have active Facebook and X (Twitter) accounts. Links can be found on our website (www.whitwickce.leics.sch.uk)

Attendance and Punctuality

Regular, punctual attendance is vital for your child's progress. Term-time holidays will not be authorised. Absences are only approved in exceptional circumstances – forms are available from the office or on Weduc.



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